crops. The second seasonal set back occurred due to excessive post monsoon rainfall in late September-October, 1998, disrupting harvest schedule and supplies. The magnitude of price increase during the seven months was:

	WPI based inflation % increase	CPI based inflation % increase
April, 98	5.6	8,2
May, 98	6.6	10.5
June, 98	7.5	12.4
July, 98	8.3	14.8
August, 98	8.3	15.0
September, 98	8.1	16.3
October, 98	8.2	18.6

(c) A number of policy intiatives have been taken by the Government to check the rise in prices, State Governments were requested to take action against hoarders, black marketers, anti social elements. Government has reduced duty on import of edible oils from 25% to 15%. To moderate further the prices of edible oils. Govt. itself is importing 1.5 lakh tonnes of edible oil for supply through PDS. Imports of pulses are allowed under OGL and export has been banned, and import duty of 10% on pulses has been abolished. Export of onions has been banned and it's import has been allowed under OGL duty free to increase domestic availability. Open market sale of wheat from FCI stocks has been authorised. Role of macro-economic factors such as the fiscal deficit and growth of money supply, mentioned by RBI also, cannot be ignored. Control of fiscal deficit is important for managing inflation and growth of the economy.

Trade Practices of Hindustan Lever Limited

1024.SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in "Nav Bharat Times" dated the 6th August, 1998 under the heading "Bhedia Karobar Hindustan Lever Par Mukadama Chalaya Ja Sakta Hai"; and

(b) if so, the details of action taken in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) SEBI has stated that they had undertaken investigations into the alleged insider trading by Hindustan Lever Ltd. (HLL). After following the prescribed procedure, an order was passed by SEBI on 11th March, 1998 under the SEBI Act, 1992 read with SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, directing HLL to compensate Unit Trust of India to the extent of Rs. 3.04 crore and ordering prosecution under Section 24 read with Section 27 of the SEBI Act against HLL and five of its directors. An appeal was preferred by HLL and others against the order of SEBI to the Appellate Authority in the Central Government under Section 20 of the SEBI Act. The Appellate Authority vide order dated 14th July, 1998 set aside SEBI's order. Following this, SEBI has filed a writ before the Bombay High Court against the order of the Appellate Authority. The matter is now subjudice.

Submission made by North-East Judicial Officers' Welfare Association

1025. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the members of the Silchar-based North-East Judicial Officers Welfare Association has submitted before the First National Judicial Pay Commission that the judiciary is yet to be separated from the executive in some of the seven North-Eastern States; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been stated *inter-alia* that in some parts of Assam, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya, Judiciary has not yet been separated from the executive. It is for the concerned State Governments to take appropriate action for separating judiciary from the executive.

Foreign Consultancy Firms operating in India

1026 SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI C.O. POULOSE:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign consultancy firms operating in India during 1997-98;

(b) the total amount of earnings they made during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the foreign consultancy firms off load part of their job to the Indian consultancy firms; and

(d) the impact of this development on Indian Consultancy agencies?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Judicial Commission to draw code of ethics for judiciary

1027. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that setting up of a national judicial commission to make recommendations for judicial appointments in the Supreme Court and High Courts and to draw up a code of ethics for judiciary is on the national agenda for governance;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the proposal;

(c) how the proposal is likely to be implemented;

(d) whether Government have received proposals for opening additional branches of Supreme Court and High Courts at various places; and

(e) the details of action taken/ proposed to be taken thereon and the present status of the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) to (c) One of the items of the National Agenda for Governance is to set up a National Judicial Commission to recommendations for Judicial appointments in the Supreme Court and the High Courts and draw up a code of ethics for the judiciary. The proposal would require Parliamentary legislation. It is, however, not possible to indicate the time by which a decision in this regard would be taken.

(d) and (e) According to article 130 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place of places, as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint. No proposal has been received from the Chief Justice of India in this regard.

No specific, complete proposal has been received from any State Government, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court, for establishing a permanent bench of the High Court away from its principal seat.

National Commission for review of the Constitution

1028. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state: